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Senate

The Senate met at 2:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Liberating Lord of all, we begin the work of this week remembering what took place 140 years ago yesterday on September 22, 1862. President Abraham Lincoln, a humble instrument in Your mighty hands, issued the life changing, values-reorienting, culture-reforming Emancipation Proclamation. The right to life, freedom, and citizenship was assured for all persons regardless of race, origin, or circumstance. This courageous position of valuing all human life by freeing the slaves was the direct result of biblical truth which could no longer be denied.

Now, 140 years later, we ask for Your strength to continue to overcome any vestiges or prejudice in our hearts. We still need Your emancipation from customs that constrict, practices that patronize, superiority that scrutinizes, and attitudes that anger. Keep us in the battle for equality in education, job opportunities, and social advancement for all Americans. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 23, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER IV, a Senator from the State of West Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ROCKEFELLER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. The Chair will announce shortly that there will be a period for morning business until 3:30 p.m. today, with the first half under the control of the Republican leader. I see Senator THOMAS is here to lead the Senate in discussion this afternoon. The second half of the time is under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

At 3:30 p.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the Interior Appropriations Act, with 60 minutes of debate in relation to the Dodd amendment regarding recognition of Indian tribes. Following this debate, there will be 60 minutes of debate in relation to cloture on the Byrd amendment regarding the fire service and agricultural disaster funding.

At 5:30 p.m., there will be two rollcall votes, first in relation to the Dodd amendment and second on cloture on the Byrd firefighting repayment amendment.

Following these votes, the Senate will resume consideration of the Homeland Security Act under the management of Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator THOMPSON.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until 3:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. Under the previous order, the first half of the time will be under the control of the Republican leader or his designee.

The distinguished Senator from Wyoming.

CHOOSING PRIORITIES

Mr. THOMAS. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes to talk about where the Senate is and where the Senate is going. Obviously, we are coming to the end of the session. I presume the maximum we will be here is 2 weeks after this week, a total of 3 weeks, unless circumstances change.

We have, of course, as usual, a lot of legislation that could be done. There are a lot of issues about which we have talked this year that need to be finalized. All those issues rise to the top at the end of a session.

More importantly, we are faced with the fact that there is limited time, and the process takes a good deal of time. Therefore, it is necessary, it seems to me, for us to choose priorities and decide what we must complete before we go into recess for the election and after and, of course, do whatever we can but that those need to be our priorities.

I am one who believes strongly in the fact that one has to make priorities, in any group, although this group is not an easy one to manage. Decisions need to be made with respect to what we need to do and, frankly, finding some limits on how long we can spend on different issues.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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